



Tyson's Corner



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2010

WELCOME...

Summer is the time of year when many festivals and fairs take place. As the Chair of City Council's Recreation and Parks Committee, I am committed to making sure the City of Columbus does all it can to help the many cultural events we host in our public park spaces and throughout our neighborhoods be amazing successes.

The wonderful thing about the many festivals we have is that they give us an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of cultures and interests of the Columbus community. For example, the Asian Festival that occurred during Memorial Day weekend is the largest event of its kind in the United States. On August 14th and 15th, Festival Latino will return for another successful year to the banks of the Scioto.



Any way you look at it, Columbus has a fun summer in store! As you will discover, some annual festivals have and will be taking place in a different area of downtown. This is due to continued work on the Scioto Mile, which will be the premier downtown park space.

In this month's issue I also highlight exciting development projects and efforts taking place in the city. These projects and ideas will help transform our city for future generations and will allow Columbus to remain competitive in our efforts to attract jobs, and keep young energy and talent. As chair of Council's Development Committee, know that I'm committed to the sound decision making process that make these projects possible.

I want to encourage everyone to get out this summer and enjoy all the different events we have to offer and visit our recreation centers and pools on those hot summer days. As usual, if you have any questions, concerns ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact my office at (614) 645-2933.

Enjoy...

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Below you will find a list containing some of the legislation I was proud to sponsor during the previous three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances shows my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing and dynamic city.

☒ **PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR COLUMBUS**

CHILDREN: Each year, the Recreation and Parks Department sponsors the summer food program to ensure that Columbus children receive nutritionally balanced meals throughout the summer. Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, sponsored ordinance 0831-2010 to authorize the acceptance of a \$50,000 grant received through the National Recreation and Parks Association for the expansion of the 2010 summer food program. Meals are served to anyone between the ages of 1-18 years at over 175 sites throughout the city. Last summer over 300,000 children were served.

- ☒ **ZOO DAYS AT CITY COUNCIL:** Some furry friends from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium visited Council Chambers to help promote the 2010 Melvin B. Dodge Summer Zoo Days. The program between the City and the Zoo is named in honor of the former director of the Recreation and Parks Department. Ordinance 0576-2010, adopted in May and sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, will help approximately 2,000 area children involved in programs at Columbus Recreation Centers enjoy Zoo Days this summer. The Columbus Zoological Park Association will provide in-kind services in the amount of \$17,500 to be used toward transportation, novelties and admission for children in 2010.

- ☒ **SUPPORTING THE FRANKLIN PARK MASTER PLAN:** The Franklin Park Master Plan focuses on preserving, yet transforming, the Conservatory and Franklin Park to ensure long-term sustainability, needed resources and service to the community. Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, recently sponsored ordinance 0811-2010, which authorizes the transfer of \$1,100,000.00 from the Special Income Tax Fund to the Recreation and Parks Capital Improvement fund and the appropriation and expenditure of those funds for the administration and implementation of phase one of the Franklin Park Master Plan. The phase one project will be managed by the Conservatory and will include the addition of two new Palm House wings, a four-acre Community Garden Campus and a new Plant Study and Production Facility.

- ☒ **IMPROVING COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS:** The Neighborhood Design Center has provided design services, planning activities, and financial alternatives to commercial property owners and tenants in Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) districts since 1982. The Design Center has assisted hundreds of businesses, property owners, and community groups develop neighborhood improvement plans, parks, storefront designs, parking facilities, and streetscape improvements. Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Development Committee, sponsored ordinance 0680-2010, which authorizes the expenditure of \$40,000 from the General Government Grant Fund for the Neighborhood Design Center to provide services and assist the Land Redevelopment Office in evaluating properties acquired under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Design Center will help evaluate properties held in the Columbus Land Bank and make recommendations to stabilize and renovate the structures.

City of Columbus		Office of City Clerk 90 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43260-1515 columbuscitycouncil.org
Legislation Report		
File Number: 0062-2008		
Emergency	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Passed
File Number: 0062-2008	Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Committee	Introduced: 1/4/2008
Version: 1	File Name: Appropriation of \$1,366,584.50 from Fund 233 for supplies and services in 2008 and to declare an emergency.	Requester: Plc. R. Priscilla Tyson
Requester: Plc. R. Priscilla Tyson	Cost: \$1,366,584.50	Final Action: 1/31/2008
Auditor Cert #:	Auditor: When assigned as Auditor Certificate Number 1, the City Auditor, hereby certifies that there is in the treasury, or assigned to come into the treasury, and not appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified herein, to pay the various ordinances.	
Contact Name/No.:	Call Calixta 645-8426	
Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)		
Mayer's Action		
Mayor	Date	President of Council
Veto	Date	City Clerk
Title:		
To authorize the appropriation of \$1,366,584.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue procuring supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency. (\$1,366,584.50)		
Sponsors:		
Inducement:		
Attachments:		
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Council staff Adam Leddy, Kelli Arthur Hykes, Councilmember Priscilla Tyson and Council Aide Carl Williams tend to City Hall garden.

COMMUNITY GARDENS: *A Healthy Goal for 2012*

This summer, Columbus became one of only a handful of city halls across the nation that has planted their own community gardens. The Columbus City Hall Garden joins the company of cutting edge cities like Portland, San Francisco, Baltimore, Boston, New York City, Colorado Springs and the rooftop gardens of Chicago's City Hall. Every city has a unique spin on the need for their garden and who tends to it, but all these great cities agree with Columbus that it is important for our local government to get our hands dirty and grow towards becoming a healthier, active place to live.

I am excited that Mayor Coleman has committed to having 500 community gardens in our city by 2012. Working together, we have begun to assemble a team of individuals from local government and the gardening community to help us strategically meet this goal. This is a group chosen for their awareness of the benefits of the community garden movement, from decreasing crime, increasing access to healthy food choices and creating a greater sense of community, to the economic and neighborhood development activities community gardening can foster.

Recent reports show that Generation Y, or those people born in the mid-1970s, will choose the city that they want to live in based on culture, amenities, and opportunities for employment. Columbus must continue to create the culture and provide the amenities that young workers desire if we hope to attract and retain the next generation's workforce and the companies that will employ them. The positives of community gardening have proven to be effective in efforts to attract these young professionals.

Additionally, the City of Columbus now has over 8,000 parcels in our land bank, most of them available for an interim use until new housing or business development begins. At the same time the city also has a higher than average rate of obesity and cases of diabetes, especially among residents living in our urban areas. It just so happens that these neighborhoods with high concentrations of land bank properties and high rates of obesity and diabetes align.

By utilizing land bank properties and other public and private spaces to develop community gardens, residents will have increased opportunities for community engagement, physical activity, and increased access to fresh produce, while providing a productive use for city-owned and community accessible property. These cultural characteristics are attractive to young professionals and new businesses who flock to cities like San Francisco, Portland, and Chicago in part because of their urban core and known commitment to active, healthy lifestyles.

By supporting community gardening, and putting together a task force to address some of the barriers to community gardening like access to water, I am confident that just like our group of volunteers here at City Hall and in the over 200 community gardens already thriving in the city, we will become a model to others. Good food comes from the ground, not the drive-thru, and the physical health benefits of gardening are just as good for us as the community building benefits.

For more information about how you can get involved in our project to have 500 community gardens, feel free to contact my office and Kelli Hykes at kahykes@columbus.gov.





HILTON COLUMBUS DOWNTOWN BREAKS GROUND

I was honored to join my Council colleagues and other elected officials to break ground on the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The convention headquarters hotel will be located on the west side of High Street connected to the SMG-managed Greater Columbus Convention Center and Nationwide Arena. The project is a collaboration among the Franklin County Commissioners, Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority, City of Columbus and Nationwide Realty Investors, Inc. The \$140 million, full-service convention hotel is expected to open in fall 2012 and will feature 532 rooms, 48 suites and 22,800 square feet of meeting space, including a 12,000-square-foot ballroom.

The property will be owned and developed by the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority and operated by Hilton Worldwide. The design group consists of architects HOK and Columbus-based Moody Nolan, and interior designers Simeone Deary Design Group. Turner Smoot is the project construction manager.

"Large regional and national groups require room blocks of 1,000 to 3,500 hotel rooms during peak nights of attendance," said William C. Jennison, executive director of the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority. "The availability of this new hotel will augment the room inventory and lead to additional convention bookings that will also increase utilization of the Greater Columbus Convention Center."

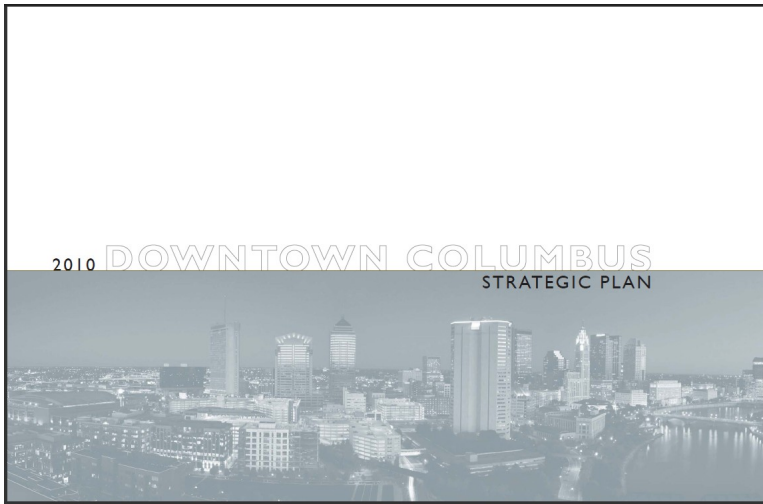
"We're thrilled the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority selected Hilton to operate Columbus' new convention headquarters hotel in one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods," said Dave Horton, Global Head, Hilton Hotels brand. "This \$140 million project allows us to truly enhance the downtown hotel package for anyone considering Columbus as a future meeting destination. The hotel's grand opening in 2012 could not have come at a better time given the much-anticipated bicentennial celebration slated for the same year."



The hotel will include a 160-seat, full-service restaurant, a 100-seat lounge, a specialty coffee outlet, an executive lounge, and a lobby featuring a large atrium with skylights to give an indoor-outdoor feel and a combination brick and glass façade. The Greater Columbus Convention Center's 900-vehicle parking garage adjacent to the hotel will service the property. In continuing the city of Columbus' commitment to sustainability, the Hilton Columbus Downtown will be LEED Certified as well as Green Seal Certified from an operating standpoint.

"With the addition of the Hilton Columbus Downtown to the Destination Columbus sell, we are able to offer multiple downtown-headquarter hotel opportunities to more than one convention or trade show at a time, as well as host larger national conventions and trade shows within the 1.7 million-square-foot Greater Columbus Convention Center," said Paul Astleford, President and CEO, Experience Columbus. "This new property significantly strengthens the Destination Columbus product offering in the global market."

DOWNTOWN STRATEGIC PLAN



On July 13th, I joined Councilmember Andrew Ginther in hosting a public hearing to discuss the Downtown Strategic Plan that was recently endorsed by the Columbus Downtown Commission. Following the hearing, Columbus City Council accepted the plan as the guide for development, redevelopment, and the planning of future public improvements within the Central Business District.

The Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan creates an overall vision for downtown that builds on previous planning efforts. Over the past several months, the planning team conducted an interactive public process, hosting three town hall

meetings and gaining input from more than 1,000 comments. The result? Ten principles, twelve ideas and eight strategies that will guide the revitalization of Downtown Columbus. The Columbus Downtown Commission endorsed the plan in June.

While the public hearing was at least the fifth public forum to focus the plan, it did provide a unique opportunity for Columbus residents to join City Council to hear more about the plan, ask questions and provide feedback.

I truly believe that downtown's success is essential to the success of the entire Central Ohio region. While growth continues on the fringes of the metro area, Downtown Columbus remains the center of commerce, government, entertainment and culture. As chair of Council's Development Committee, I'm committed to the continued development and redevelopment of this important area.

Over the course of the last decade, there has been a significant amount of reinvestment in Downtown Columbus. Residential growth has rebounded for the first time since 1950. In the face of a down economy the office market has stabilized, while absorbing more than one million square feet of office space. Since 2000 there has been nearly \$2 billion in public and private investment downtown, including development of what will be Columbus' premier park—Scioto Mile.

The resurgence of downtown is due in part to the success of the 2002 Downtown Business Plan that called for, among other things, building more downtown housing, improving the riverfront park system, and attracting and retaining jobs downtown. With this mission largely fulfilled, it was time to capitalize on current success and to plan for the next 10 years and beyond.

For more information, please visit:
www.downtowncolumbus.com





Columbus City Council

Office of
Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

90 West Broad,
2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 645-2933
Fax: (614) 645-0533

Carl Williams, Legislative Aide
E-mail: cgwilliams@columbus.gov

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson

Council Staff
Kelli Arthur Hykes
Thomas Diamond
Adam Leddy



Department of Development
City of Columbus, Ohio

development.columbus.gov



recparks.columbus.gov

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS RECREATION AND PARKS



The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is delighted to celebrate 100 years of being green, serving the community, and enriching the lives of our residents. Our recreation and park facilities offer a variety of activities, classes, and programs for all ages to enjoy.

This year is our 100th anniversary in which we will have events and ceremonies dedicated to our mission and goals. We invite and welcome everyone from the Columbus community to celebrate along with us!

History

On July 15th 1910, the City Recreation Department was established to enrich Columbus by finding ways to make streets, alleys, boulevards, parks and public grounds more beautiful. On January 2nd 1972, the City Recreation Department merged with the Division of Forestry and Parks to become the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.



We have grown from six to 215 developed parks on 10,000 acres and have established 30 community centers, seven golf courses, 51 miles of trails, and programs for residents from toddlers to those 50+.

Events

August

Imagine what your great-grandchildren will think in 2110 when they open the Recreation and Park time capsule that was buried 100 years earlier along the Scioto Mile! This month, we are dedicating our 100th year time capsule at the Cultural Arts Center on August 11, 11 a.m.

September

Join us as we bring back a beloved tradition from the past, the lantern parade in our local neighborhood parks (Whetstone, Westgate, Linden, Krumm, and Schiller). We will be launching 100 floating lanterns in the park ponds on September 22, 7 p.m. You won't want to miss this as this is going to be our actual birthday party. Ice cream will be served!

October

Gather the kids and bring them down to Smith Farms for the Fall Harvest Jamboree that includes a day filled with corn maze, hay rides, pumpkin patches, and more! Activities take place on October 2, from 12 pm. to 5 p.m.

November

The holiday season is upon us so join us for the Empty Bowl project. Purchase a handmade bowl filled with soup and you will be helping those who are less fortunate. Proceeds will benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Saturday, November 6, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at locations throughout the city.

December

100 years-100 ways to shine! Join us for our annual tree lighting ceremony as we celebrate 100 years and still growing at City Hall on December 7 at 5 p.m.

columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson/comment

